



MASW

NEWSLETTER

TO SEEK PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Greetings members and fellow social workers,

As we are stepping into the new year 2024, let's us take a short moment and reflect on what has MASW and social work in Malaysia achieved in 2023.

2023 has been both exciting and challenging for MASW. First, with the Social Work Profession Bill still pending after so many years of its drafting, as early as February MASW had made a courtesy call...

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contact@masw.org.my

...on YB Dato' Sri Hajjah Nancy Shukri, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development who was appointed to the portfolio in December 2022, to reiterate MASW's position and the importance of the Bill in enhancing social work practice in the country.



With the technical and financial support from UNICEF Malaysia, we are learning and are being guided to be more strategic and consistent in making MASW and social work more visible. Through the launching of the 'Heroes Among Us' video and advocacy campaign, we are making steps in engaging policy makers, parliamentarians, media, social work students, as well as to the general public in enhancing the professional image of social work and social workers. Although the Social Work Profession Bill was not tabled in 2023, we have seen some encouraging progress and we will continue to intensify our efforts in 2024.



In celebrating the 50th anniversary of the formation of MASW, we co-organized the inaugural National Social Work Summit with Institut Social Malaysia (ISM) on the 23 and 24 August at ISM. The MASW 50th anniversary dinner on 23 August was graced by YABhg Tun Jeanne Abdullah as the guest of honour. During the anniversary dinner, we honoured our past presidents and presented certificate of appreciation to those who are still with us.

In 2023, MASW also collaborated with ISM in organizing five series of seminar on Social Work Profession and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) from February until September 2023. This is in line with our efforts in promoting the social work profession and the preparedness for CPD when the Social Work Profession Bill is passed in the future. ISM has agreed to continue the collaboration in 2024, so do watch out for the announcements. We would also like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to ISM for recognizing MASW as one of its Strategic Partners for 2023.

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2023 also marked a good year for social work and MASW as Prof. Dr. Azlinda Azman, President MASW 2021-2023, was appointed as the Director General of the Higher Education Department, Ministry of Higher Education on 31 May. Despite her busy schedule and new priorities, Prof. Dr. Azlinda has shown her commitment to the profession by staying in the Executive Committee of 2023-2025 when we had our Annual General Meeting virtually on 24 June. We are equally excited to have three young social workers (in their 20s and early 30s) elected to the Executive Committee. We hope to see more young social workers join as members of MASW and participate actively in our programs.



Prof. Dr. Azlinda Azman

Also, with the financial support from UNICEF in beefing up MASW's advocacy and communication efforts, MASW office added on two more staff this year. We are mindful the two new additions are on short term basis and require fund raising from our part if we want to continue their service in the second half of 2024. In reality, fund raising has been tricky and challenging for MASW. Therefore, we would like to seek our members assistance in this regard. Do contact us should you have ideas or willing to assist us in fund raising.

As we bid goodbye to 2023 and welcome 2024, please take note of two upcoming major social work events in 2024. First, World Social Work Day 2024 will be on 19 March with the theme 'Buen Vivir: Share Future for Transformative Change'. Planning is already underway for MASW in organizing WSWD2024. Second, the Global Joint Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development (SWSD2024) will be held in Panama from 4-7 April 2024. Participants can join either in person or through online platform. Further details can be obtained from the website (www.ifsw.org) of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). In addition, the 15th Eurasia Forum on Social Work is scheduled to be held on 20-22 March 2024 in Pattaya, Thailand. We will keep the members informed once we have received further details on the forum.



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I take this opportunity to thank all our partners, especially the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, Department of Social Welfare Malaysia, ISM, UNICEF Malaysia, Methodist College Kuala Lumpur, Yayasan Chow Kit, AWAM, MAKPEM, Yayasan Hasanah, Parenting for Lifelong Health, all social work programs at both public and private institutions of higher learning, and many other individuals and organisations who continue to work with MASW.

Let's us pray and work harder in making social work a recognized and respected profession in 2024. Happy New Year 2024.

Sincerely,

DR. TEOH AI HUA

President of MASW



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SIDANG KEMUNCIAK KERJA SOSIAL KEBANGSAAN 2023 & MAJLIS MAKAN MALAM SAMBUTAN ULANGTAHUN KE-50 MASW 23 - 24 OGOS 2023

Sidang kemuncak ini telah diadakan pada 23-24 Ogos 2023, dihadiri seramai 256 peserta samada secara hibrid di Dewan Intelek, ISM, dan secara dalam talian menggunakan aplikasi Zoom. Majlis Perasmian Penutup telah disempurnakan oleh YB Puan Aiman Athirah Sabu, Timbalan Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat. Sebagai tanda sokongan kepada pekerja sosial, video "Heroes Among Us: Change The Story, Change Lives" telah dilancarkan pada sidang ini yang dihasilkan oleh MASW dengan kerjasama UNICEF.

Satu majlis makan malam bagi menyambut ulangtahun ke-50 persatuan diadakan pada sebelah malam, 23 Ogos 2023. Penghargaan telah diberikan kepada rakan-rakan strategiknya iaitu Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat (KPWKM), Institut Sosial Malaysia (ISM), Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat (JKM), Malaysian Professional Body, Yayasan Chow Kit, AWAM Malaysia, MAKPEM, UNICEF & Methodist College KL serta 6 orang Mantan Presiden MASW. Majlis turut diserikan dengan kehadiran YABhg. Tun Jeanne Abdullah, Encik Chua Choon Hwa, Timbalan Ketua Setiausaha (Strategik) KPWKM dan Dr. Faridah binti Awang, Pengarah ISM.



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PERSIDANGAN PEGAWAI KERJA SOSIAL PERUBATAN MALAYSIA KE-26, 24 - 26 OKTOBER 2023

Profesion Kerja Sosial Perubatan Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia dan Persatuan Pegawai Pembangunan Masyarakat (Perubatan) Malaysia telah menganjurkan Persidangan Pegawai Kerja Sosial Perubatan Malaysia ke-26 di Hotel Eastin Pulau Pinang pada 24-26 Oktober 2023. Persidangan yang bertema 'Kerja Sosial Perubatan: Mendepani Cabaran, Menghormati Kepelbagaian' ini telah dirasmikan oleh YBhg Datuk Dr Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan, Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan Malaysia. Presiden MASW, Dr. Teoh Ai Hua, telah dijemput sebagai penceramah bagi membicarakan topik 'Akta Profesion Kerja Sosial - Penanda Aras Perkhidmatan Kerja Sosial di Malaysia' pada 25 Oktober.

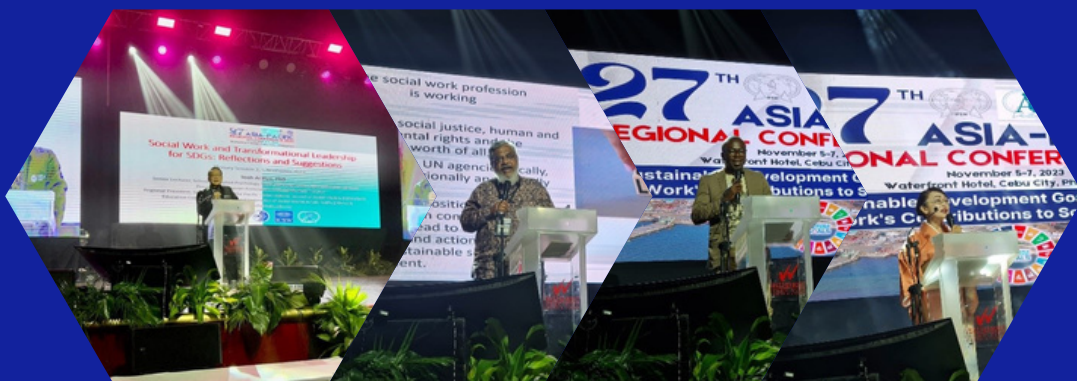


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27TH ASIA PACIFIC SOCIAL WORK REGIONAL CONFERENCE 5TH - 7TH NOVEMBER 2023

The 27th Asia Pacific Social Work Regional Conference was held from November 4-7 in Cebu City, Philippines. It was co-organized by the International Federation of Social Workers-Asia Pacific (IFSW-AP), the Association of the Asia Pacific Social Work Educators (APASWE), and the Philippines Association of Social Workers Inc. (PASWI). The conference had the theme 'Sustainable Development Goals Halfway Points: Social Work Contributions to Social Development.' IFSW Global President, Mr. Joachim Cuthbert Mumba, IFSW-AP Regional President, Prof. Machiko Ohara, APASWE Secretary, Dr. Jowima Reyes, and PASWI President, Roy Luntayao, addressed and welcomed over 1000 participants. Approximately 150 international participants from 17 countries across the region took part in this biannual conference. A pre-conference workshop on 'Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation, and Rehabilitation: Social Work Perspective' was held on November 4. IFSW-AP and APASWE conducted their General Meetings on November 5th and 6th, respectively.



President of MASW, Dr. Teoh Ai Hua, was invited as a plenary speaker on the theme 'Transformative Leadership and SDGs,' while life member of MASW, Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria, was among the invited keynote speakers. MASW member Dr. Haizzan Yahaya from Universiti Sains Malaysia participated in the regional conference as a board member of APASWE. Dr. Teoh also represented MASW at the IFSW-AP General Meeting. Sri Lanka will host the 28th Regional Conference in 2025.



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VISIT TO ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MALAYSIA (APPGM) 9TH NOVEMBER 2023

On 9 November, the MASW President, Dr. Teoh Ai Hua, and the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Amy Bala, accompanied by Mr. Faiz Alavi, MASW media and communication officer, along with Ms. Lyn-Ni, a child protection specialist from UNICEF Malaysia, visited Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria and his team at the office of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia (APPGM) in Petaling Jaya. The visit was to explore potential collaborations that could involve the participation of social workers and MASW members in suitable community projects, as well as increase the visibility of professional social workers to parliamentarians and the general public, as part of our advocacy campaigns for the Social Work Profession Bill.



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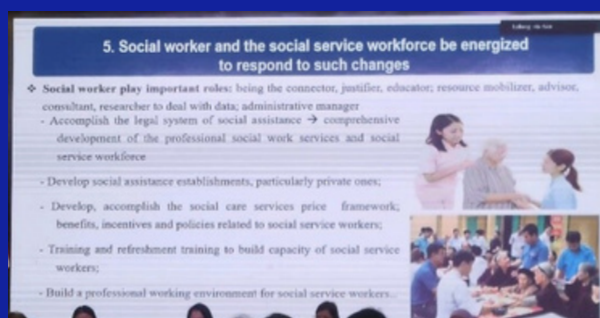


18TH ASEAN GO-NGO FORUM ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT 13TH - 14TH NOVEMBER 2023

The 18th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum on Social Welfare and Development, with the theme 'Responsive Social Protection in the Changing World,' was held in Ha Long City, Vietnam, on 13 and 14 November 2023. The GO-NGO Forum was one of the main events in line with the 19th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) held from 15-17 November.

The Malaysian official delegation was led by Datuk Maziah bt Che Yusof, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development (KPWKM) and Head of Malaysia SOMSWD, accompanied by Puan Wan Noraida, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Social Welfare, and Cik Anis Nabihah from the Policy and International Relations of the Ministry.

MASW President Dr. Teoh Ai Hua was appointed by the KPWKM as one of the Malaysian delegates representing MASW and the National Council of Welfare and Social Development Malaysia (MAKPEM), of which Dr. Teoh is one of its Vice Presidents. In addition, Dr. Teoh was also invited to the Forum in his capacity as the Regional President of the International Council on Social Welfare-South East Asia and Pacific Region (ICSW-SEAP) by the host Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs of Vietnam.



At the GO-NGO Forum, delegates from the government sector, UN agencies, NGOs, and CSOs discussed and made recommendations on four aspects, namely:

- i. Ensuring disability-inclusive approaches and strategies on social protection;
- ii. Empowering older persons through integrated social protection;
- iii. Protecting children through comprehensive child-focused social protection; and
- iv. Energizing social workers and the social service workforce.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023



In addition, the delegates also participated in the SOMSWD dialogue with ASEAN partners and the Mid-Term Review of the SOMSWD Work Plan 2021-2025 on 14 November. On 15 November, Dr. Teoh presented the recommendations of the 18th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum to the 19th SOMSWD on behalf of the NGO Co-chair of Vietnam.



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PROGRAM LIBAT URUS DAN MAJLIS APRESIASI INSTITUT SOSIAL MALAYSIA 30 NOVEMBER 2023

Institut Sosial Malaysia (ISM) telah menganjurkan Program Libat Urus dan Majlis Apresiasi ISM di Kuala Lumpur pada 30 November. Persatuan Pekerja Sosial Malaysia (MASW) dan beberapa lagi organisasi dalam kalangan sektor awam, sektor swasta, Badan Bukan Kerajaan (NGO), Pihak Berkuasa Tempatan, Pejabat Suruhanjaya Unit Kerajaan (SUK) Negeri, Institut Pengajian Tinggi Awam (IPTA), dan Institusi Pengajian Tinggi Swasta (IPTS), telah diberi pengiktirafan sebagai Rakan Strategik ISM bagi tahun 2023.

Presiden, Dr. Teoh Ai Hua, Naib Presiden, Prof. Madya Dr. Mohd Suhaimi, dan Penolong Setiausaha Kehormat, Datin Rodhiah Zakaria, mewakili MASW dalam majlis ini serta menerima sijil penghargaan daripada YB Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri, Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat (KPWKM).



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ASEAN SOCIAL WORK CONSORTIUM CONFERENCE 6TH & 7TH DECEMBER 2023



The 11th and 12th ASEAN Social Work Consortium (ASWC) Conference, organized by the Philippines, was held online on 6 and 7 December with the theme 'Strengthening the Role of Social Work: Responding to the Changing Socio-Economic, Environmental, and Political Landscapes in ASEAN.' The ASWC aims to provide a venue for social work educators, practitioners, and advocates from ASEAN Member States (AMS) to:

- (i) share initiatives and innovations in strengthening the role of social work along the priority areas of the ASWC Work Plan 2021-2025;
- (ii) strengthen partnerships and collaborations in social work practice and education among AMS;
- (iii) discuss and exchange perspectives on building positive public perceptions of Social Work; and
- (iv) discuss ways forward to further strengthen the role of social work in responding to the changing socio-economic, environmental, and political landscapes in ASEAN.

Malaysian delegates were comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development, the Department of Social Welfare, and medical social workers from the Ministry of Health and the Prison Department. Dr. Teoh Ai Hua represented MASW at the conference and presented the outcomes of the group discussion on social work education.



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UPCOMING EVENT

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2024!

World Social Work Day takes place on 19 March 2024. This year's theme is **'Buen Vivir: Shared Future for Transformative Change'**, which emphasizes the need for social workers to adopt innovative, community-led approaches that are grounded in indigenous wisdom and harmonious coexistence with nature.



As we approach #WSWD2024, this theme serves as a timely reminder of the transformative role social workers play in driving positive change and fostering communities that thrive on mutual respect and sustainability.

Joachim Mumba, IFSW President, commented; *"Buen Vivir resonates deeply with the core values of social work. As we celebrate World Social Work Day, let's embrace this principle and champion a future where communities and nature coexist in harmony a future where social workers will, together with local people co-design and co-build peaceful communities critical to our shared sustainable futures."*

In conjunction with the above, MASW will continue collaborating with universities/colleges who have a social work program to celebrate the upcoming World Social Work Day 2024 as a continuity of this professional partnership from the year 2021. Stay tune for more details!



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UNLEASH YOUR STORY

Get ready to unleash your storytelling prowess! We're thrilled to invite each and every one of you to share your captivating stories of impact and inspiration in various social work settings.

Whether you've faced heartwarming moments, navigated challenges with resilience, or witnessed incredible transformations, we want to hear it all! Your experiences are the heartbeat of our community, and your stories can spark change, inspire, and connect us in powerful ways.

Write in and let your narrative unfold! Share anecdotes, lessons learned, or any remarkable encounters that have left an indelible mark on your social work journey. Submit your stories via email to contact@masw.org.my with the subject: **UNLEASH YOUR STORY_Your preferred story title**. Selected stories will be featured in our next issue of the newsletter.

Let's weave a tapestry of experiences that not only celebrate our collective achievements but also inspire others to make a difference. Your story matters, and together, we'll create a narrative that echoes the true spirit of our social work community.

Ready to pen down your tales of triumph? We can't wait to read and share in the richness of your experiences!



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INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS

MASW believes in the power of knowledge and continuous learning. To enhance your expertise and stay ahead in our dynamic field, we highly recommend exploring the latest books and publications available.

Visit <https://www.ifsw.org/publications/> for a curated list of recommended books and publications. Let's continue to strive for excellence in our social work journey!

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ANNOUNCEMENT

MEMBERSHIP

Guess what time has rolled around? It's the much-anticipated Membership Renewal Season, and we are absolutely buzzing with excitement to extend a special invitation to YOU! Your unwavering commitment has been the pulsating heartbeat behind our impactful initiatives, and now, we're gearing up for another thrilling year of creating positive change together.

If you haven't joined our vibrant community yet, now's the perfect time to hop on board! Visit our website for all the details on how to become a member and be part of the transformative journey. Your membership is not just a commitment; it's an investment in a year filled with opportunities, connections, and meaningful contributions.

For any queries or assistance regarding your membership, our dedicated MASW staff members are just a call away at +603-7954 9379, or you can email us at contact@masw.org.my. We're here to ensure your membership experience is seamless and extraordinary!

Renew, rejoin, and let's make this year another chapter of impactful moments and shared successes!

Thank you for being the driving force of MASW's success. Let's make waves together!

Ready to take the plunge?
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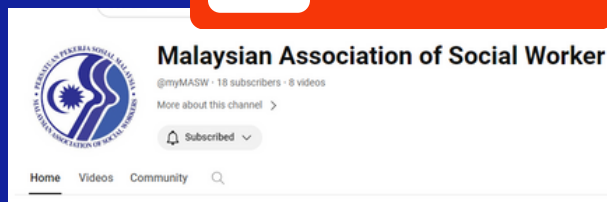
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MASW ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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